

**BOARD OF MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**Special Meeting Regarding Sheriff's Office Air Quality/Moisture Issue**  
**July 18, 2019, Meeting Minutes**

On Thursday, July 18, 2019, a special meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners came to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Administrative Office Building in Virginia City, Montana, with Commissioners Ron Nye, Chairman, Jim Hart, and Dan Allhands present. Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant to the Madison County Board of Commissioners, was present to take minutes.

Others in attendance at the meeting were Phil Fortner, Sheriff, Clay Richardson, Deputy Sheriff, Kathy Barnes, Sheriff's Assistant, Bob Bates, Safety Coordinator, Missy Wood, Detention Officer, Chris Tenny, Deputy Sheriff, Craig Schroder, Undersheriff, Tammy Mahlstede, Human Resource Generalist, Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Carmin Hill, Deputy Clerk of Courts, Justin Ekwall, Deputy County Attorney, and Bonnie O'Neill, Chief Administrative Officer.

Ron Nye, Commission Chair, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He asked if the Sheriff's Office would be in compliance if it were moved to Placer Loop. There was discussion about a statute that requires the Sheriff's Office to be at the County seat. Justin clarified that the statute does not specify that it has to be within the city limits and didn't think that anyone would be concerned if the office was located at Placer Loop. There were suggestions and discussion about other places to house the Sheriff and/or the entire Sheriff's Office; housing prisoners; the need for a squad room and evidence room; and the urgency to get people out of the current Sheriff's Office. Phil stated that the Public Health Office would work for them for everything except a Detention Center. There was discussion much discussion about relocating the Public Health Office and where that office could be moved to. The IT and/or Custodial Room was suggested with the probability of using the break room also because of the need for water.

After much discussion, Dan Allhands moved to pursue the option of moving the Sheriff's Office as soon as possible, contact Public Health about moving, and have something solidified by next week so the Sheriff's Office will know where they're going to go. Jim Hart seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

There was further discussion about the need to continue with the mold mitigation in the current Sheriff's Office. It was noted that when something like this happens in one area of the building, there are concerns with the rest of the building.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Ronald E. Nye, Chairman  
Board of Madison County Commissioners

Date Approved: August 13, 2019

Minutes prepared by:

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Laurie Buyan, Executive Assistant

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder, Madison County